

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/000389

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. ⁷: G01N 33/574, 33/74, 33/68; A61K 38/00, 39/00; C12Q 01/68

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WPAT; JAPIO; CAPlus; Medline (inhibin; neoplasm; neoplastic cell; (cancer/carcinoma/adenocarcinoma);
(detect*/diagnos*/monitor*/modulat*/regulat*)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 1995/032431 A1 (OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY) 30 November 1995 Whole document.	51-54
X	WO 1987/005702 A1 (BIOTECHNOLOGY AUSTRALIA Pty. Ltd.) 24 September 1987 Whole document.	51-54
X	WO 2001/029079 A1 (PRINCE HENRY'S INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH) 26 April 2001 Whole document.	51-54
X	WO 1998/047526 A1 (MONASH UNIVERSITY) 29 October 1998 Whole document.	51-75

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

☒ See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
4 June 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report
8 JUN 2004

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Sheth, N.A. et al., (1984) <i>Neoplasma</i> , vol. 31(3), pp 315-321. "Circulating levels of inhibin in cancer". Whole document.	1-54
X	Robertson, D.M. et al., (2001) <i>Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology</i> , vol. 180, pp 79-86. "Development of an inhibin α subunit ELISA with broad specificity". Whole document.	51-54
X	Betteridge A. and Craven, R.P. (1991) <i>Biology of Reproduction</i> , vol. 45, pp 748-754 "A two-site enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay for inhibin". Whole document.	51-54
X	Frias, A. E. et al., (1999) <i>Cancer</i> , vol. 85(2), pp 465-471. "Preoperative serum level of inhibin A is an independent prognostic factor for the survival of postmenopausal women with epithelial ovarian carcinoma". Whole document.	1-54
X	Mellor, S. L. et al., (1998) <i>Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism</i> , vol. 83(3), pp 969-975. "Loss of the expression and localization of inhibin α -subunit in high grade prostate cancer". Whole document.	51-54
X	Petraglia F. et al., (1998) <i>Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism</i> , vol. 83(3), pp 1029-1032. "Inhibin B is the major form of inhibin/activin family secreted by granulosa cell tumors". Whole document.	1-54
X	Robertson, D.M. et al., (2002) <i>Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology</i> , vol. 191, pp 97-103. "Inhibin/activins as diagnostic markers for ovarian cancer". Whole document.	1-54
A	Dowling CR and Risbridger GP (2000) <i>Endocrine-Related Cancer</i> , vol 7, pp 243-256. "The role of inhibins and activins in prostate cancer pathogenesis". Whole document.	1-75

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Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 76-78
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
Claim 78 is directed to a pharmaceutical composition which comprises an agent capable of modulating the level of inhibin. The agent is defined merely by a desired result. There are no features which actually define the agent itself. Thus the scope of this claim is unclear and so broad that it is highly likely that known agents (either synthetic or natural compounds) would be encompassed within its scope. The addition of a carrier or diluent does not confer any novel aspect on this claim. The use of such an agent (claims 76 and 77) is also not clearly defined as the agent itself is not defined.
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Information on patent family members

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This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member			
WO 9532431		AU 25322/95	CA 2191061	EP 0763206	
		FI 964657	US 5952182		
WO 8705702		AU 72036/87	EP 0260306	NZ 219609	
		ZA 8701844			
WO 0129079		AU 10078/01	CA 2387576	EP 1226166	
		NZ 518320	US 2003162229		
WO 9847526		AU 70151/98	EP 1011715		
Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.					
END OF ANNEX					